



# PRESTON PARENT BULLETIN

October 2023



It was great seeing so many parents at the annual grade level meetings! We hope you found them informative and helpful in advising your daughters about their academic goals and college planning.

**Interim Reports:** On October 12th, the mid-first quarter progress reports were made available to students and parents via RenWeb's Parent Portal. As this will be the first evaluation of the year, it is a good time to follow up on any difficulties your daughter may be having and, of course, to encourage her in her strengths. IR's are not a part of the permanent record, but a snapshot in time to let you know how she is doing.

Parents and students will be able to view the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter **Report cards**, via **RenWeb's Parent Portal**, at **the end of the day** on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, teachers will be available to talk with parents from **3:00-5:00 and 5:30-7:30**. (Please note that **students will be dismissed that day at 2:30** and that there will be a 1/2 hour dinner break at 5PM for the faculty.) In the meantime, do not hesitate to call or email a teacher or an administrator if you have concerns or just want to be sure things are "on track" relative to your daughter's academic achievement.

## CONGRATULATIONS

to

Senior Anna Maria Lombardo who was honored at the Italian-American Heritage Celebration on October 12th at the Schiff Center.

Our NYC Bronx Borough President, Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson, hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Italian-American Heritage month celebration and selected Anna Maria for her academic excellence and service to the Italian Club and Italian Honor Society.



## PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS AND THANKS

The **Freshman Family Liturgy & Picnic** was held on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed many freshman families for a Mass, lunch and games. We thank those who joined us and hope to see you again soon!

The **PHS Annual Children's Halloween Festival** was held on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. At the Halloween Festival young children enjoyed pumpkin decorating, arts & crafts, a magic show, games and more!

Preston High School's Annual **Father Daughter Dance** is scheduled for **Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm at Marina del Rey**. Fathers, uncles, brothers, grandfathers, or loved ones, wear your Sunday best and show our students how special they really are. Come spend an evening full of music, dinner, dancing and photos. More information and details will go out this week.

Please try to attend the **monthly** Parent Association meetings! We will discuss academics, school events, and all the upcoming information you will need for months to come. **Our next meeting will be**

**on Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.**  
**Future PA meetings:12/12 and 1/9.**



## **PRESTON HAPPENINGS**



- ❖ **Class Parties** ~ In order to strengthen the Big Sister/Little Sister relationships, grade-level parties were hosted by the Big Sister classes on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Class Presidents and Treasurers who coordinated events.
- ❖ This year's **Food Drive Sing-along** was an exciting one! We sang excerpts of songs going back to our first ever Food Drive Sing-along in 2006 - that's 18 different songs! A tradition that started off as a silly parody of children's songs to inspire students to donate food has evolved into a joyous 30 minutes of nonstop singing to melodies of popular songs... but singing about the compassion we want to share with the world. The 2023 song was written in the spirit of our student council theme of "Barbie." And not only did students sing "I'm a Preston Girl!" (rather than "I'm a Barbie Girl!"), they also danced to it. The Preston Panther led the student body in a "Just Dance" version of our Food Drive song.



- ❖ **Pictures, Pictures Pictures...**Our school photographers will be at Preston on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> to take make-up ID pictures for those who missed the first day and to take the Senior Class yearbook picture in their year of graduation pose. Additionally, the photographers will return on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> for seniors who wished to re-take their formal and/or informal portraits.
- ❖ **Columbus Day Parade:** Sincere thanks to our students, parents & faculty who demonstrated great school spirit on Sunday, October 8 in Morris Park. Our participation was arranged by Ms. Rosemary DeMaio and Mr. Edgar Martinez.



- ❖ **The PSAT/NMSQT** will be administered to all Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen on October 18. For the Juniors, this is their first official college admission test, which results in students receiving informational literature from prospective colleges. It also serves as the qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship program. For

the Freshmen, Sophomores and Freshmen who take it, this is a trial run, but since the feedback is very helpful, it is in their best interests to take the exam seriously.

❖ East year the **Italian Club and our Athletics Teams** hold a bake sale, T-Shirt sales and a volleyball game for Breast Cancer Awareness. This year, they raised \$2,567.00 and the proceeds were donated to the American-Italian Cancer Foundation's Breast Cancer Screening Program.

❖ **NHS** started scheduling **Peer Tutoring** the week of September 25<sup>th</sup>.

For our new families, the National Honor Society members have a service requirement each year and the way we satisfy that requirement is through helping peers with quiz and test prep, homework help, lesson clarification, etc. A member of the NHS is paired up with someone who has requested tutoring and they meet up during studies, after school, or before school. Please click [here](#) to complete the request form.

❖ Students seeking **tutoring in MATH** subjects, tutoring is available **EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY** in Room 203 via **Math NHS**. No appointments are needed.

**Extra help** with **Science** courses is available afterschool as follows: Earth science - 231

Chemistry - 222

Biology and AP Biology - 220

Physics and Anatomy & Physiology - by appointment

❖ We at Preston understand the difficulty in the transition from Middle School to High School. The purpose of the **Freshman Academy** is to assist all freshmen in this pivotal time of academic and social transition. The program includes: Peer Mentoring

Each freshman homeroom is assigned a Junior Ambassador who will meet with them throughout the year to assist and instruct on matters of Preston life such as academics and extra-curricular events.

- Tutoring- Extra help is provided through each academic department as well as through peer mentors.

- Dedicated Staff- The program is composed of dedicated professionals who work collaboratively to ensure the future success of all Preston girls. This group will meet on a regular basis for the sole purpose of making freshman year a success both academically and socially.

## **College Information Instant Decision Days at Preston**

**Dominican University** will be coming to Preston on **Monday, October 30th** to conduct an Instant Decision Day Admission for Seniors.

Upcoming Instant Decision Days:

**University of New Haven** on November 30th  
**Quinnipiac University** on January 8th  
**St John's University** December 11th

We are happy to announce SUNY & CUNY institutions are offering free applications for students later this month. We encourage all seniors to take advantage of these free applications. Please take the time to research the various campuses and programs of study by working with your senior to create a safety, target and reach list of schools for both [CUNY](#) and [SUNY](#). We have found this [guide](#) to be helpful when breaking down a college list to determine students safety, target and reach schools.

On **Monday, October 16th and 17th** the Counseling Department will be assisting seniors with their SUNY and CUNY applications. We will provide step by step guidance and a breakdown of how to apply. This information will also be shared on their Counseling Google Classroom for review. More detailed information about both free application opportunities and other resources are listed below.

**CUNY (City Colleges of New York):**

Seniors can apply to CUNY for FREE the last 2 weeks of October (**Oct 16-31**). NO FEE WAIVER CODE IS NEEDED. CUNY is test-optional through Spring 2025. Therefore, students should carefully consider whether or not to submit SAT or ACT scores. [See here for more details](#). CUNY advises the students to apply to 6 campuses, 1 campus being a community college.

**SUNY (State Colleges of New York):**

Beginning **Monday, October 16th**, and ending **Sunday, October 29th** students can apply to up to five SUNY campuses with no application fee! This includes all 64 SUNY campuses, no matter if the student is applying via Common Application or the SUNY Application. Click the link [here](#) for more information.

**SUNY EVENTS:**

Over the next two weeks, The State University of New York will be holding a variety of virtual events to help your students and their families prepare for Free Application Week. Some topics include:

[Which SUNY Are You?](#)

[How to Apply to SUNY](#)

[Educational Opportunity Program](#)

**Reminders:**

Students must submit a Counselor Review Form 10 school days before the institution's deadline. Students are responsible for turning in a Counselor Review Form for each of the SUNY campuses you apply to. When applying to CUNY keep in mind you will only need to hand to your counselor one Counselor Review Form, with the 6 campuses listed and your CUNYFirst ID which will be sent to you directly via email ( after you apply in class) .

Please reach out to your daughter's counselor if you have any questions!



## Calendar for October and November

- ☑ October 18 – PSAT/NMSQT test for Grades 11, 10 & 9
- ☑ October 23 – Rain Date for Senior Class Yearbook Photo
- ☑ October 25 – Senior Informal/Formal retakes
- ☑ October 27 - 1:30pm Early Dismissal – Open House set-up
- ☑ October 28 – OPEN HOUSE 11am – 3pm
- ☑ October 30 – OPEN HOUSE 6:30pm – 8:00pm
- ☑ October 31<sup>st</sup> – Happy Halloween – Halloween Assembly
- ☑ November 1 – All Saints Day
- ☑ November 2 – All Souls Day
- ☑ November 6 – First Quarter Ends
- ☑ November 7 – Election Day – **School Closed – Faculty conference**
- ☑ November 8 – Second Quarter Begins
- ☑ Father/Daughter Dance at Marina del Rey, 7:00pm- 11:00pm
- ☑ November 10 – Veteran’s Day observed - **School Closed**
- ☑ November 12 – Veteran’s Day Parade
- ☑ November 14 – Report Card grades become available to parents/students at 5pm
  - **PA Meeting, 6:30pm**
- ☑ November 15 – \$2 Jr. Ambassadors Dress Down
- ☑ November 16 - **Parent/Teacher conferences**. Students will be dismissed at 2:30. Teachers and Guidance Counselors are available at the following times: 3:00 to 5:00 and again between 5:30 -7:30.
- ☑ November 17 – 1:16pm Early Dismissal- Grade Level faculty meeting
- ☑ November 23 – **Happy Thanksgiving – School Closed**
- ☑ November 24 – **School Closed**
- ☑ November 27 – Classes resume
- ☑ November 28 – **National Giving Tuesday**